

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00

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R 231539Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9643

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 1252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UV

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S REQUEST TO MEET SECRETARY

REF: OUAGA 1232

1. DURING MY CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ZERBO MAY 21, HE ASKED WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY OF MEETING SECRETARY KISSINGER SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE DURING ONE OF HIS VISITS THERE. I TOLD HIM THAT SECRETARY'S VISITS TO EUROPE AS WELL AS OTHER AREAS WERE ALWAYS UNDERTAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR WITH IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND THAT, AS A RESULT, HE HAD TO ADHERE TO A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE. ZERBO DID NOT INSIST BUT SEEMED TO EXPECT A MORE DEFINITIVE REPLY.

2. COMMENT: A MEETING WITH ZERBO WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE A WASTE OF THE SECRETARY' TIME. HE IS NOT PARTICULARLY INFLUENTIAL IN AFRICAN CIRCLES AND HE IS NOT EVEN CONSIDERED ONE OF THE STRONG MEN OF THE LAMIZANA REGIME. I DO NOT BELIEVE HE HAS ANYTHING SPECIFIC IN MIND BUT, HAVING JUST RUBBED ELBOWS WITH PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU OF CANANDA, HE MAY FEEL THAT A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY WOULD ENHANCE HIS PRESTIGE WITHIN UPPER VOLTA AND AMONG HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES. IT IS POSSIBLE ALSO THAT AMBASSADOR

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YAGUIBOU HAS SUGGESTED SUCH A REQUEST AS A SORT OF TEST OF

RECENT U.S. DECLARATIONS REGARDING STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES. IF THERE ARE PLANS FOR THE SECRETARY TO MEET SOME AFRICAN LEADERS IN NEW YORK DURING NEXT UNGA, THIS MIGHT GIVE US A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO FINESSE THIS REQUEST.
GRAHAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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